

**REMARKS**

This amendment responds to the office action of June 23, 2004. Claims 1-7, 9-35, 39-59 have been cancelled. Claims 8, 36-38 remain pending in the application.

Claim 8 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 102(e) as being anticipated by Friedman (U.S. Patent 6,078,845). In accordance with the details below, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

Specifically, Claim 8 as amended recites “processing said wafer as a second process tool using said first information in said wafer status file to modify said wafer, ...” [emphasis added] Consistent with this, the specification of the present application states that, e.g., “. . . if a wafer was processed by a given tool such that an undesirable variation occurred, then this recorded information will be following the wafer to a subsequent tool, where appropriate compensation for the variation can take place.” (See page 20, lines 12-14). Other examples can also be found on, e.g., pages 20-22 of the specification. Thus, as indicated by the specification, the wafer itself is modified using the information in the wafer status file.

In contrast, Friedman does not disclose such processing of a wafer at a second tool using information in a wafer status file. Referring to column 5, lines 7-10 of Friedman, “. . . the data in the carrier’s storage device will be read by the equipment to verify that the devices are at the correct location in the process and update the work-in-process data.” Thus, the information relevant in Friedman relates particularly to location/time information. The language at the bottom of that paragraph relating to “individual wafer, die, device . . . ,” particularly in the context of that paragraph, does not teach or suggest the recitations of the aforementioned claim.

Consequently, it is submitted that claim 8 as amended is patentable over the art of record. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Independent claims 36 and 37 (and by association, dependent claim 38) contain features similar to those in claim 8, and are also believed allowable. In addition, the aforementioned features are not taught by the Stoddard patent.

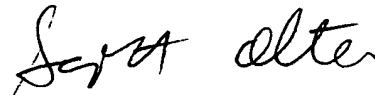
Applicants respectfully submit that, as described above, the cited prior art does not show or suggest the combination of features recited in the claims. Applicants do not concede that the cited prior art shows any of the elements recited in the claims (as amended or prior to any amendment or cancellation). However, Applicants have provided specific examples of elements in the claims that are clearly not present in the cited prior art.

For all the reasons advanced above, reconsideration and issuance of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

To the extent any extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 is required to obtain entry of this amendment, such extension is hereby requested. If there are any fees due under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17 which are not enclosed, including any fees required for an extension of time, please charge those fees to our Deposit Account No. 08-0219.

Respectfully submitted,

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